

Two or three cowboys of the Bar X ranch are lounging around the bunk house or corral. Slim, the goat of the ranch is busily engaged combing his goat hair chaps with a fine teeth comb, when Chick McGuire rides to the ranch. The peaceful attitude of the boys grates on his nerves, and he decides to put some life into them. Sneaking near the boys, he purses his lips, and makes a sound which is an exact imitation of the warning rattle of a rattlesnake. The boys are thrown into confusion in an effort to locate and dodge the deadly snake, which they think is upon them. Guns are fired at everything resembling a snake, and when Chick makes his appearance laughing at them he is almost hazed.

At the Bar X, Cecil Aubrey, an easterner, is visiting with Pop Warner and his daughter, Arline. Cecil is the son of an old friend of Warner's, and has come west with the avowed purpose of winning Arline's hand. He is regarded with approval by old Warner, who wants his daughter to marry the son of his old friend. Arline, however, does not take very kindly to him, nor does Chick, or the other boys of the ranch, who regard him as a four flouser and undesirable. He is near the boys when Chick plays his joke, and rushes madly to the house for safety. When Arline learns the truth, she only laughs at him, much to his discomfiture, and Cecil tries to induce Warner to fire Chick from the ranch, having reason to believe that Arline and Chick are becoming entirely too friendly, but Warner refuses, knowing that Chick is the most valuable man on the ranch.

In a stormy scene between Warner, his daughter and Cecil, in which the marriage of Cecil and Arline is the bone of contention, Arline refuses flatly to marry Cecil. Cecil and Warner are both angry. Arline leaves them and meets Chick. She tells him of the happenings and of her refusal to marry Cecil. Their love for each other is admitted by both, and they plan to elope the following night. Cecil has followed Arline from the house, sees her meeting with Chick and overhears their plans.

The next day Cecil calls at the cabin of an evil looking character in the hills, and arranges a plan with him whereby they are to make a prisoner of Cecil and prevent his elopement.

As Chick awaits the coming of Arline on the following evening, Cecil and his man attack him and make him a prisoner. The man quickly changes clothes with Chick, and taking his horse, waits for Arline. Cecil takes Chick, bound, to the cabin.

Arline comes to the meeting place to meet Chick, and in the darkness mistakes the man for Chick and rides away with him. They go to the cabin.

At the cabin Arline is dumbfounded to find that Chick is a prisoner and that Cecil intends to force her to marry him, ~~they exchange~~ telling her that his friend is a minister. As they prepare for the ceremony, Chick frees himself, rescues Arline and knocks Cecil out, but the man makes his escape to a horse. Chick sends Cecil home on a horse, and pursues the man. The chase leads through the hills and to the desert.

Morning finds Chick still following the man, and they are on the desert. Chick has lost the trail.

While Chick is searching for the trail, Arline is at home, telling her father of the trouble with Cecil. Cecil makes his appearance and is promptly thrown from the ranch and ordered home. He leaves in disgrace.

Searching for the trail, Chick comes to a small water hole among some rocks. He is unaware of the fact that the man is hidden nearby, watching from a point of concealment. Watching his opportunity, the man speaks from the rocks and covers Chick with his gun. He takes Chick's rifle from him and tosses it on the sands some distance away. Chick has found, when he starts to drink from the pool, that it is poisoned water. The man carries a canteen, and from it takes a drink, keeping Chick covered. Chick is helpless. The man distinctly tells Chick that he is going to kill him, and that he might as well go ahead and drink the water. Chick tries to figure out some way to escape. The man is gloating over his

his advantage over Chick, tantalizing him and drawing out as long as possible his determination to finally kill Chick.

Suddenly an idea comes to Chick. Lying on the sand, he purses his lips and there comes the insidious warning of the rattler. The man turns quickly, thinking he is about to be struck by a rattler. In this one moment Chick turns quickly, grabs the rifle from the sand and fires point blank, striking the man in his gun arm and wounding him. The rest is easy. Chick loads the man on the horse in front of him and leaves for the ranch.

Reaching the ranch, Chick finds Cecil gone. He turns the man over to others, and Pop Warner is willing to concede that he has no right to butt into the affairs of his daughter, and turns her over willingly to Chick.

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